

Unit Deployment

East Boston EMS Coverage

Supersedes: 01-26-97
Effective: 04-12-04

The fact that the neighborhood of East Boston is physically separated from Boston proper poses some unique challenges to Boston EMS in our effort to provide the highest level of prehospital care for all residents and visitors of our city.

1. Keeping in mind the relative limited accessibility of East Boston, the Dispatch Operations Supervisor (or above) may authorize Ambulance 7, the primary BLS unit normally assigned to East Boston, to be reposted to the “Boston Side” to enhance system wide coverage. Given the ongoing construction and associated traffic pattern reconfigurations associated with the Central Artery and Tunnel (“Big Dig”) project, developing a standard set of conditions to guide this decision is impractical. Like all other unit deployment decisions, factors such as call volume, unit availability, and access / egress options should be taken into account.
 - 1.1. After clearing a response or other assignment on the “Boston side”, Ambulance 7 may be used for a response on the Boston side without prior supervisor approval if their response time to the scene would be less than another BLS unit.
2. Whenever Ambulance 7 is unavailable for a response, another BLS unit should be reposted for East Boston coverage whenever possible.
 - 2.1. Ambulance 8, the designated zone impact unit for Haymarket Square / East Boston, should normally repost to the East Boston side of the Callahan Tunnel unless they are unavailable or otherwise re-posted (e.g.: Charlestown 23:00---01:45).
 - 2.2. When both A7 and A8 are unavailable, an available “extra” BLS unit (A-30, A-31 if in service) should be reposted to the East Boston side of the Callahan tunnel for East Boston coverage.
 - 2.3. When Ambulance 7 and Ambulance 8 are unavailable and there is no “extra” BLS unit available to repost (or their ETA is extended), Ambulance 1 or Ambulance 6 should be reposted to a location near the entrance to a harbor tunnel, which will afford them relatively quick access to East Boston.
 - 2.4. When other downtown units are unavailable, Ambulance 15 (Ambulance 8 during the hours of 23:00-01:45) or another available unit should be reposted to the downtown area to provide coverage.
 - 2.5. If there are no Boston EMS units available for Haymarket/East Boston/Charlestown coverage, private ambulance services should be contacted to check their availability to provide back- up service.

A7 → A8 Eastie → (A30 Eastie) → A1 / A6 Tunnel Access → A15 Haymarket Sq
→ Poll Privates